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Resolution 1917 (2010)

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The Security Council,

Recalling its previous resolutions on Afghanistan, in particular its resolution 1868 (2009) extending through 23 March 2010 the mandate of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) as established by resolution 1662 (2006), and its resolution 1659 (2006) endorsing the Afghanistan Compact, and *recalling also* the report of the Security Council mission to Afghanistan, 21 to 28 November 2008 (S/2008/782),

Reaffirming its strong commitment to the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and national unity of Afghanistan,

Stressing the importance of a comprehensive approach to address the situation in Afghanistan, and *recognizing* that there is no purely military solution to ensure the stability of Afghanistan,

Reaffirming its continued support for the Government and people of Afghanistan as they rebuild their country, strengthen the foundations of sustainable peace and constitutional democracy and assume their rightful place in the community of nations,

Welcoming the London Conference communique (S/2010/65), which set a clear agenda and agreed priorities for the way ahead on Afghanistan, underpinned by a comprehensive strategy to be taken forward by the Government of Afghanistan with the support of the region, the international community and with a central and impartial coordinating role for the United Nations,

Reaffirming in this context its support for the implementation, under the ownership of the Afghan people, of the Afghanistan Compact, of the Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS) and of the National Drugs Control Strategy, and *noting* that sustained and coordinated efforts by all relevant actors are required to consolidate progress made towards their implementation and to overcome continuing challenges,

Stressing the central and impartial role that the United Nations continues to play in promoting peace and stability in Afghanistan by leading the efforts of the international community, including, jointly with the Government of Afghanistan, the

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coordination and monitoring of efforts in implementing the Afghanistan Compact through the Joint Coordination and Monitoring Board (JCMB) in support of the priorities set up by the Government of Afghanistan and *expressing* its appreciation and strong support for the ongoing efforts of the Secretary-General, his newly appointed Special Representative for Afghanistan and in particular the women and men of UNAMA who are serving in difficult conditions to help the people of Afghanistan,

Reiterating the continued commitment of the international community to support the stability and development of Afghanistan, and also *welcoming* in this regard international and regional initiatives including commitments made at the Istanbul Summit on Friendship and Cooperation in the "Heart of Asia" held on 26 January 2010 with the participation of Afghanistan and its neighbours and the London Conference on Afghanistan held on 28 January 2010, and looking forward to the Afghan Government's concrete action plans and targets in anticipation of an international conference in Kabul, in later this year,

Recalling the importance of the Kabul Declaration of 22 December 2002 on Good-Neighbourly Relations (Kabul Declaration) (S/2002/1416), the special conference on Afghanistan under the aegis of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization held in Moscow on 27 March 2009, and Istanbul Statement of 26 January 2010 (S/2010/70), *looking forward* to the Fourth Regional Economic Cooperation Conference on Afghanistan (RECCA) to be held in Turkey, and *stressing* the crucial importance of advancing regional cooperation as an effective means to promote security, governance and economic and social development in Afghanistan,

Welcoming the efforts of countries that are increasing their civilian and humanitarian efforts to assist the Government and the people of Afghanistan and encouraging the international community to further enhance their contributions in a coordinated manner with the Afghan authorities and UNAMA,

Stressing the need for a transparent, credible and democratic process that preserves stability and security through the election period, and *welcoming* the Government of Afghanistan's commitment to ensure the integrity of the 2010 national legislative elections and to prevent irregularities and misconduct,

Recognizing once again the interconnected nature of the challenges in Afghanistan, *reaffirming* that sustainable progress on security, governance, human rights, the rule of law, and development, as well as the cross-cutting issues of anti-corruption, counter-narcotics and transparency are mutually reinforcing and *welcoming* the continuing efforts of the Afghan Government and the international community to address these challenges through a comprehensive approach,

Stressing the importance of a comprehensive approach in addressing the challenges in Afghanistan and *noting*, in this context, the synergies in the objectives of UNAMA and of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) as also noted in resolution 1890 (2009), and *stressing* the need for strengthened cooperation, coordination and mutual support, taking due account of their respective designated responsibilities,

Stressing the need of urgently addressing the humanitarian situation through improving the reach, quality and quantity of humanitarian aid, ensuring efficient, effective and timely coordination and delivery of humanitarian assistance through

enhanced coordination among the United Nations agencies, funds and programmes under the authority of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and between the United Nations and other donors, and through the expansion and strengthening of the United Nations humanitarian presence in the provinces, where it is most needed,

Condemning attacks against humanitarian workers, emphasizing the attacks impede efforts to aid the people of Afghanistan, and *underlining* the need for all parties to ensure safe and unhindered access of all humanitarian actors, including United Nations staff and associated personnel, and comply fully with applicable international humanitarian law,

Reiterating its concern about the security situation in Afghanistan, in particular the increased violent and terrorist activities by the Taliban, Al-Qaida, illegally armed groups, criminals and those involved in the narcotics trade, and the increasingly strong links between terrorism activities and illicit drugs, resulting in threats to the local population, including children, national security forces and international military and civilian personnel,

Expressing also its serious concern over the harmful consequences of violent and terrorist activities by the Taliban, Al-Qaida and other extremist groups on the capacity of the Afghan Government to guarantee the rule of law, to provide security and basic services to the Afghan people, and to ensure the improvement and protection of their human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Recognizing the increased threats posed by the Taliban, Al-Qaida and other extremist groups as well as the challenges related to the efforts to address such threats,

Recalling its resolutions 1674 (2006), 1738 (2006) and 1894 (2009) on the protection of civilians in armed conflict, *expressing* its concern at the high number of civilian casualties, the significant majority of which are caused by the Taliban, Al-Qaida and other extremist groups, welcoming the progress by Afghan and international forces in reducing civilian casualties *reiterating* its call for all feasible steps to be taken to ensure the protection of civilians, and *calling for* compliance with international humanitarian and human rights law as applicable,

Expressing also concern with the serious threat that anti-personnel mines, remnants of war and improvised explosive devices may pose to the civilian population, and *stressing* the need to refrain from the use of weapons and devices prohibited by international law,

Welcoming the Afghan Government's achievements in banning Ammonium Nitrate fertilizer, and *urging* prompt action to implement regulations for the control of all explosive materials and precursor chemicals, thereby reducing the ability of insurgents to use them for improvised explosive devices,

Recalling the declaration addressed to the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) by the Government of Afghanistan that there is no legal use for acetic anhydride in Afghanistan for the time being and that producing and exporting countries should abstain from authorizing the export of this substance to Afghanistan without the request from the Afghan Government, and *encouraging*, pursuant to resolution 1817 (2008), Member States to increase their cooperation with the INCB, notably by fully complying with the provisions of article 12 of the

United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, 1988,

Expressing its support for the Afghan-Pakistani Peace Jirga process,

Recalling its resolutions 1265 (1999), 1296 (2000), 1674 (2006), 1738 (2006) and 1894 (2009) on the protection of civilians in armed conflict, its resolutions 1325 (2000), 1820 (2008) and 1888 (2009) and 1889 (2009) on women and peace and security, and its resolution 1612 (2005) and 1882 (2009) on children and armed conflict, and *taking note* of the report of the Secretary-General (S/2008/695) on Children and Armed Conflict in Afghanistan,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General of 10 March 2010 (S/2010/127);

2. *Expresses its appreciation* for the United Nations long-term commitment to work with the Government and the people of Afghanistan and *reiterates* its full support to the work of UNAMA and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General;

3. *Decides* to extend until 23 March 2011 the mandate of UNAMA, as defined in its resolutions 1662 (2006), 1746 (2007), 1806 (2008) and 1868 (2009), and paragraphs 4, 5 and 6 below;

4. *Calls on* the United Nations, with the support of the international community, to support the Government of Afghanistan's priorities on the issues of security, governance and economic development, and regional cooperation, and to support the full implementation of mutual commitments made on these issues at the London Conference, as well as on continuing implementation of the National Drug Control Strategy, and *requests* that UNAMA assist the Government of Afghanistan in the transition towards Afghan leadership, including by supporting the preparation of the Conference to be held in Kabul later this year;

5. *Decides* further that UNAMA and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, within their mandate and guided by the principle of reinforcing Afghan ownership and leadership, will continue to lead the international civilian efforts, in accordance with the London Conference Communique, and with a particular focus on the priorities laid out below:

(a) promote, as co-chair of the Joint Coordination and Monitoring Board (JCMB), more coherent support by the international community to the Afghan Government's development and governance priorities, including through mobilization of resources, coordination of international donors and organizations, and direction of the contributions of United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, in particular for counter-narcotics, reconstruction and development activities; at the same time, support efforts to increase the proportion of development aid delivered through the Afghan Government, and support efforts to increase the transparency and effectiveness of the Afghan Government's use of such resources;

(b) strengthen the cooperation with ISAF and the NATO Senior Civilian Representative at all levels and throughout the country, in accordance with their existing mandates, in order to improve civil-military coordination, to facilitate the timely exchange of information and to ensure coherence between the activities of national and international security forces and of civilian actors in support of an

Afghan-led development and stabilization process, including through engagement with provincial reconstruction teams and engagement with non-governmental organizations, and support the process of provincial transition to Afghan-led security responsibility taking into account the respective mandates of UNAMA and ISAF;

(c) provide political outreach as well as good offices to support, if requested by the Afghan Government, the implementation of Afghan-led reconciliation and reintegration programmes, including through proposing and supporting confidence building measures within the framework of the Afghan constitution and with full respect for the implementation of measures and application of the procedures introduced by the Security Council in its resolutions 1267 (1999), 1822 (2008) and 1904 (2009) as well as other relevant resolutions of the Council;

(d) support, at the request of the Afghan authorities, and taking into account progress on commitments on electoral reform agreed at the London Conference, preparations for the upcoming national legislative elections, by providing technical assistance, coordinating other international donors, agencies and organizations providing assistance and channelling existing and additional funds earmarked to support the process; and support, through civil society, the robust participation of the Afghan people in the elections and the electoral reform process;

6. *Also reaffirms* that UNAMA and the Special Representative will continue to lead international civilian efforts in the following priority areas:

(a) through a strengthened and expanded presence throughout the country, promote at the local level the implementation, of the ANDS and the National Drugs Control Strategy, and facilitate inclusion in and understanding of the Government's policies;

(b) support and strengthen efforts to improve governance and the rule of law including transitional justice and to combat corruption at the local and national levels, and to promote development initiatives at the local level with a view to helping bring the benefits of peace and deliver services in a timely and sustainable manner;

(c) play a central coordinating role to facilitate the delivery of humanitarian assistance in accordance with humanitarian principles and with a view to building the capacity of the Government of Afghanistan, including by providing effective support to national and local authorities in assisting and protecting internally displaced persons and to creating conditions conducive to the voluntary, safe, dignified and sustainable return of refugees and internally displaced persons;

(d) continue, with the support of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, to cooperate with the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC), to cooperate also with relevant international and local non-governmental organizations and the Government of Afghanistan, to monitor the situation of civilians, to coordinate efforts to ensure their protection, to promote accountability, and to assist in the full implementation of the fundamental freedoms and human rights provisions of the Afghan Constitution and international treaties to which Afghanistan is a State party, in particular those regarding the full enjoyment by women of their human rights;

(e) support regional cooperation to work towards a stable and prosperous Afghanistan;

7. *Calls upon* all Afghan and international parties to coordinate with UNAMA in the implementation of its mandate and in efforts to promote the security and freedom of movement of United Nations and associated personnel throughout the country;

8. *Reiterates* the need to ensure security of United Nations staff and its support for the measures already taken by the Secretary-General in this regard, and looks forward to an analysis of the United Nations security requirements in Afghanistan;

9. *Stresses* the importance of strengthening and expanding the presence of UNAMA and other United Nations agencies, funds and programmes in the provinces, *encourages* the Secretary-General to continue his current efforts to take necessary measures to address the security issues associated with such strengthening and expansion, and strongly supports the authority of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General in the coordination of all activities of United Nations agencies, funds and programmes in Afghanistan;

10. *Underscores* the importance of the upcoming national legislative elections to Afghanistan's democratic development, *calls for* all efforts to be made to ensure the credibility, safety, and security of the elections, *recognizes* the challenges that face the Afghan Independent Election Commission (IEC) and the Afghan Electoral Complaints Commission (ECC), *underlines* the need for those two bodies to effectively discharge their functions in preparing and monitoring elections, and *encourages* the Government of Afghanistan to work together with UNAMA to ensure that the IEC and ECC are strong, independent and provide the proper checks and balances required by the Constitution;

11. *Welcomes* the commitment of the Government of Afghanistan to work closely with the United Nations to build on the lessons learned from the 2009 elections to deliver improvements to the electoral process in 2010 and beyond, and, taking into account the commitments on electoral reform made at the London Conference, *reaffirms* UNAMA's leading role in supporting the realization of these commitments at the request of the Afghan Government, and *requests* that UNAMA provides technical assistance to the National Assembly and civil society to support constructive electoral reforms, and further *calls upon* members of the international community to provide assistance as appropriate;

12. *Welcomes* the renewed efforts of the Afghan Government, including through the national Peace Jirga to be held this year, to promote dialogue with those elements in opposition to the Government who are ready to renounce violence, break ties with Al-Qaida and other terrorist organizations, denounce terrorism and accept the Afghan Constitution, particularly as it relates to gender and human rights issues, and encourages the Government of Afghanistan to make use of UNAMA's good offices to support this process as appropriate, in full respect of the implementation of measures and procedures introduced by the Security Council in its resolution 1267 (1999), 1822 (2008) and 1904 (2009) as well as other relevant resolutions of the Council;

13. *Welcomes* also the Government's commitment to develop and implement an effective, inclusive, transparent and sustainable national Peace and Reintegration

Programme, *stresses* the role of the UNAMA in supporting this Programme as mandated in this Resolution, and *encourages* the international community to assist the efforts of the Government of Afghanistan in this regard including through a Peace and Reintegration Trust Fund;

14. *Welcomes* ongoing efforts by the Government of Afghanistan and its neighbouring and regional partners to foster trust and cooperation with each other as well as recent cooperation initiatives developed by the countries concerned and regional organizations, including the Fourth Trilateral Summit of Afghanistan, Pakistan and Turkey held in Istanbul, the Istanbul Summit held with the participation of Afghanistan and its neighbours, and the London Conference on Afghanistan, *further welcomes* the reaffirmation in the London Conference Communique of the principles set out in the Good Neighbourly Relations Declaration of 2002, and *stresses* the importance of increasing cooperation between Afghanistan and its partners against the Taliban, Al-Qaida and other extremist groups, in promoting peace and prosperity in Afghanistan and in fostering cooperation in the economic and development sectors as a means to achieve the full integration of Afghanistan into regional dynamics and the global economy;

15. *Reaffirms* the central role played by the JCMB in coordinating, facilitating and monitoring the implementation of the Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS) and *calls upon* all relevant actors to enhance their cooperation with the JCMB in this regard with a view to further improve its efficiency;

16. *Calls on* international donors and organizations and the Afghan Government to adhere to their commitments made at the International Conference in Support of Afghanistan, held in Paris on 12 June 2008 and at the London Conference on Afghanistan on 28 January 2010, and *reiterates* the importance of further efforts in improving aid coordination and effectiveness, including by ensuring transparency, combating corruption, and enhancing the capacity of Government of Afghanistan to coordinate aid;

17. *Calls upon* the Afghan Government, with the assistance of the international community, including ISAF and the Operation Enduring Freedom coalition, in accordance with their respective designated responsibilities as they evolve, to continue to address the threat to the security and stability of Afghanistan posed by the Taliban, Al-Qaida, illegally armed groups, criminals and those involved in the narcotics trade;

18. *Condemns* in the strongest terms all attacks, including Improvised Explosive Device attacks, suicide attacks and abductions, targeting civilians and Afghan and international forces and their deleterious effect on the stabilization, reconstruction and development efforts in Afghanistan, and *condemns further* the use by the Taliban and other extremist groups of civilians as human shields;

19. *Welcomes* the achievements to date in the implementation of the Mine Action Programme of Afghanistan, and encourages the Government of Afghanistan, with the support of the United Nations and all the relevant actors, to continue its efforts towards the removal of anti-personnel landmines, anti-tank landmines and explosive remnants of war in order to reduce the threats posed to human life and peace and security in the country, and *expresses* the need to provide assistance for

the care, rehabilitation, and economic and social reintegration of victims, including persons with disabilities;

20. *Recognizes* the progress made by ISAF and other international forces to minimizing the risk of civilian casualties, as described in the January 2010 UNAMA report on the protection of civilians in armed conflict, and *calls on* them to continue to take robust efforts in this regard, notably by the continuous review of tactics and procedures and the conduct of after action reviews and investigations in cooperation with the Afghan Government in cases where civilian casualties have occurred and when the Afghan Government finds these joint investigations appropriate;

21. *Emphasizes* the importance of ensuring access for relevant organizations, as applicable, to all persons and places of detention in Afghanistan, and *calls for* full respect for relevant international law including humanitarian law and human rights law;

22. *Expresses* its strong concern about the recruitment and use of children by Taliban forces in Afghanistan as well as the killing and maiming of children as a result of the conflict, *reiterates* its strong condemnation of the recruitment and use of child soldiers in violation of applicable international law and all other violations and abuses committed against children in situations of armed conflict, in particular attacks against schools, and the use of children in suicide attacks, *calls for* those responsible to be brought to justice, *stresses* the importance of implementing Security Council resolution 1612 (2005) and 1882 (2009) in this context, and *requests* the Secretary-General to continue to strengthen the child protection component of UNAMA, in particular through the appointment of child protection advisers;

23. *Reiterates* the importance of increasing, in a comprehensive framework, the functionality, professionalism and accountability of the Afghan security sector through appropriate vetting procedures, training, mentoring, equipping and empowerment efforts, for both women and men, in order to accelerate progress towards the goal of self-sufficient and ethnically balanced Afghan security forces providing security and ensuring the rule of law throughout the country;

24. *Welcomes* in this context the continued progress in the development of the Afghan National Army and its improved ability to plan and undertake operations, and *encourages* sustained training efforts, including through the contribution of trainers, resources and Operational Mentoring and Liaison Teams through the NATO Training Mission-Afghanistan, and advice in developing a sustainable defence planning process as well as assistance in defence reform initiatives;

25. *Takes note* of the ongoing efforts of the Afghan authorities to enhance the capabilities of the Afghan National Police, *calls for* further efforts towards that goal, including through the Focused District Development, and *stresses* the importance, in this context, of international assistance through financial support and provision of trainers and mentors, including the contribution of the NATO Training Mission-Afghanistan, the European Gendarmerie Force (EGF) contribution to this mission and the European Union through its police mission (EUPOL Afghanistan);

26. *Welcomes* the progress in the implementation by the Afghan Government of the programme of disbandment of illegal armed groups, and *calls for* accelerated efforts for further progress, with support from the international community;

27. *Takes note* of the recent progress in addressing opium production, *remains concerned* at the serious harm that opium cultivation, production and trafficking and consumption continue to cause to the security, development and governance of Afghanistan as well as to the region and internationally, *calls on* the Afghan Government, with the assistance of the international community, to accelerate the implementation of the National Drug Control Strategy, including through alternative livelihood programmes, and to mainstream counter-narcotics throughout national programmes, and *encourages* additional international support for the four priorities identified in that Strategy, *commends* the support provided by the UNODC to the Triangular Initiative and the Central Asian Regional Coordination and Information Centre (CARICC) within the framework of the Paris Pact Initiative and the Rainbow Strategy, as well as the contribution of Domodedovo Police Academy of Russia;

28. *Calls upon* States to strengthen international and regional cooperation to counter the threat to the international community posed by the illicit production, trafficking, and consumption of drugs originating in Afghanistan, in accordance with the principle of common and shared responsibility, including through strengthening the law enforcement capacity in drug control and cooperation for the fight against the illicit trafficking in drugs and precursor chemicals and against money-laundering and corruption linked to such trafficking, taking into account the outcome of the Second Ministerial Conference on Drug Trafficking Routes from Afghanistan organized by the Government of the Russian Federation in cooperation with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime held in Moscow in 2006 (S/2006/598), within the framework of the Paris Pact initiative and its "Paris-Moscow" process, and, in this regard, *calls for* full implementation of its resolution 1817 (2008);

29. *Calls for* the continuation of the Paris Pact initiative in counteracting illicit production, trafficking and consumption of narcotics and the elimination of poppy crops, drug laboratories and stores as well as the interception of drug convoys, underlines the importance of border management cooperation and *welcomes* the intensified cooperation of the relevant United Nations institutions with the OSCE in this regard;

30. *Reiterates* the importance of the full, sequenced, timely and coordinated implementation of the National Justice Programme, by all the relevant Afghan institutions and other actors in view of accelerating the establishment of a fair and transparent justice system, eliminating impunity and contributing to the affirmation of the rule of law throughout the country;

31. *Stresses* in this context the importance of further progress in the reconstruction and reform of the prison sector in Afghanistan, in order to improve the respect for the rule of law and human rights therein;

32. *Notes with strong concern* the effects of widespread corruption on security, good governance, counter-narcotics efforts and economic development, and *urges* the Afghan Government, with the assistance of the international community, to vigorously lead the fight against corruption, and to enhance its efforts to establish a more effective, accountable and transparent administration;

33. *Encourages* all Afghan institutions, including the executive and legislative branches, to work in a spirit of cooperation, *calls on* the Afghan

Government to pursue continued legislative and public administration reform in order to ensure good governance, with full representation of all Afghan women and men, and accountability at both national and subnational levels, and *stresses* the need for further international efforts to provide technical assistance in this area;

34. *Calls for* full respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms and international humanitarian law throughout Afghanistan, *notes with concern* the restrictions on freedom of media, and attacks against journalists, *commends* the AIHRC (Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission) for its courageous efforts to monitor respect for human rights in Afghanistan as well as to foster and protect these rights and to promote the emergence of a pluralistic civil society, and *stresses* the importance of full cooperation with the AIHRC by all relevant actors, and *supports* broad engagement across government agencies and civil society for the realization of the mutual commitments made at the London Conference, including the commitment to provide sufficient government financing for the AIHRC;

35. *Recognizes* that despite progress achieved on gender equality, enhanced efforts are necessary to secure the rights of women and girls, *strongly condemns* continuing forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls, in particular violence aimed at preventing girls from attending schools, *stresses* the importance of implementing Security Council resolutions 1325 (2000), 1820 (2008), 1888 (2009), and 1889 (2009) *supports* efforts to accelerate implementation of the National Action Plan for Women in Afghanistan, welcomes the Afghan Government's commitment to strengthen the participation of women in all Afghan governance institutions, including elected and appointed bodies and the civil service, and *requests* the Secretary-General to continue to include in its reports to the Security Council relevant information on the process of integration of women into the political, economic and social life of Afghanistan;

36. *Welcomes* the cooperation of the Afghan Government and UNAMA with the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999) with the implementation of resolution 1904 (2009), including by providing relevant information for updating the Consolidated List, and by identifying individuals and entities participating in the financing or support of acts or activities of Al-Qaida and the Taliban using proceeds derived from illicit cultivation, production and trafficking of narcotic drugs and their precursors, and *encourages* the continuation of such cooperation;

37. *Calls for* strengthening the process of regional economic cooperation, including measures to facilitate regional trade, to increase foreign investments and to develop infrastructure, noting Afghanistan's historic role as a land bridge in Asia;

38. *Recognizes* the importance of voluntary, safe, orderly return and sustainable reintegration of the remaining Afghan refugees for the stability of the country and the region, and *calls for* continued and enhanced international assistance in this regard;

39. *Affirms* also the importance of voluntary, safe, orderly return and sustainable reintegration of the internally displaced persons;

40. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the Council every three months on developments in Afghanistan, include in his next report, evaluation of progress made against the benchmarks for measuring and tracking progress in the

implementation of UNAMA's mandate and priorities as set out in this resolution; and *calls on* all actors concerned to cooperate with UNAMA in this process;

41. *Decides* to remain actively seized of the matter.